

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus,
comprising:

a fixing ~~means~~ unit which fixes a toner image transferred on
a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and heat,

5 a fixing control ~~means~~ for controlling unit which controls
the fixing ~~means~~ unit, and

an image printing control ~~means~~ for controlling unit which
controls printing of the toner image,

wherein the fixing ~~means~~ unit has:

10 ~~an a first~~ operation mode for starting energization of the
fixing ~~means~~ unit after an initialization in the image printing
control ~~means~~ unit is completed; and

15 ~~another a second~~ operation mode for starting energization of
the fixing ~~means~~ unit before ~~an the~~ initialization in the image
printing control ~~means~~ unit is completed.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in
claim 1, wherein either one of the two operation modes is
performed at ~~the at least one of~~ a time when ~~an~~ electric power
source of the image printing apparatus is turned on ~~or at the and~~
5 ~~a~~ time of returning from a stand-by state, which is a low power
consumption mode.

3. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus,
comprising:

a fixing means unit which fixes a toner image transferred on
a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and heat,

5 a fixing control means for controlling unit which controls
the fixing means unit,

an image printing control means for controlling unit which
controls printing of the toner image, and

10 an interface which is mounted on the fixing means unit and
is capable of receiving data from a data input means unit,

wherein the fixing means unit has:

15 an a first operation mode for starting energization of the
fixing means unit by making reference to the data received
through the interface from a the data input means unit after an
initialization in the image printing control means unit is
completed; and

another a second operation mode for starting energization of
the fixing means unit before an the initialization in the image
printing control means unit is completed.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in
claim 3, wherein either one of the two operation modes is
performed at the at least one of a time when an electric power
source of the image printing apparatus is turned on or at the and

5 a time of returning from a stand-by state, which is a low power consumption mode.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is provided independently of the fixing ~~means~~ unit and is ~~allowed to connect with~~ connectable to the interface through a communication cable.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is mounted in an operation/display section of the image printing apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein the data inputted by the data input ~~means~~ unit includes pieces of information ~~in relation~~ related to at least one of: a load individual operation mode, a process mode used in 5 a manufacturing process, and a service mode used ~~upon an~~ in after-sale service servicing.

8. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus, comprising:

a fixing means unit which fixes a toner image transferred on a paper sheet to the paper sheet by applying pressure and heat,

5 a fixing control ~~means for controlling unit which controls~~
the fixing ~~means~~ unit,

an image printing control ~~means for controlling unit which~~
controls printing of the toner image, and

10 an interface which is mounted on the fixing ~~means~~ unit and
is capable of receiving data from a data input ~~means~~ unit,

wherein the fixing ~~means~~ unit has:

~~an a first~~ operation mode for judging whether or not
starting energization of the fixing ~~means~~ unit after an
initialization in the image printing control ~~means~~ unit is
15 completed; and

~~another a second~~ operation mode for judging whether or not
starting energization of the fixing ~~means~~ unit before ~~an the~~
initialization in the image printing control ~~means~~ unit is
completed.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in
claim 8, wherein either one of the two operation modes is
performed at ~~the at least one of~~ a time when an electric power
source of the image printing apparatus is turned on ~~or at the and~~
5 a time of returning from a stand-by state, which is a low power
consumption mode.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is provided independently of the fixing ~~means~~ unit and is ~~allowed to connect with~~ connectable to the interface through a communication cable.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the data input ~~means~~ unit is mounted in an operation/display section of the image printing apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 8, wherein the data inputted by the data input ~~means~~ unit includes pieces of information ~~in relation~~ related to at least one of: a load individual operation mode, a process mode used in a manufacturing process, and a service mode used ~~upon an~~ in after-sale ~~service~~ servicing.